

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

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TAGS: EAIR, NL

SUBJ: PANAM TO CURTAIL AMSTERDAM SERVICE

REF: HAGUE 3897

1. LOCAL PANAM REPRESENTATIVE INFORMS US THAT COMPANY HAS DECIDED TO REDUCE ITS SCHEDULED FLIGHTS BETWEEN NEW YORK AND AMSTERDAM FROM CURRENT DAILY 747 SERVICE TO TWO-A-WEEK 707S COMMENCING DECEMBER 2. WE HAD REPORTED IN REFTEL EARLIER PLANS TO CURTAIL SCHEDULE FROM SEVEN TO FOUR. MORE DRASTIC CUT REFLECTS CONTINUING HEAVY LOSSES ON AMSTERDAM-NY RUN, DESPITE SOME PICK-UP IN TRAFFIC RECENTLY.

2. NEW SCHEDULE, WHICH WILL COVER 1976 AND 1977, CALLS FOR RETURN TO DAILY SERVICE IN MAY, BUT ALL SUCH FLIGHTS, AS WELL AS WINTER ONES, WILL BE VIA LONDON, RATHER THAN DIRECT. THIS WILL PLACE FURTHER PRESSURE ON PANAM'S ABILITY TO COMPETE WITH KLM, WHICH OPERATES DAILY NON-STOP 747 FLIGHTS TO NEW YORK.

3. PANAM IN AMSTERDAM IS NOW MAKING MORE MONEY ON CARGO THAN ON PASSENGERS. BESIDES DAILY FREIGHT SERVICE TO NEW YORK, AIRLINE DID LUCRATIVE BUSINESS THIS SUMMER WITH 20 CHARTER FLIGHTS TO NIGERIA, CARRYING EVERYTHING FROM CONSUMER GOODS TO HEAVY

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EQUIPMENT FOR NIGERIA'S OIL-WEALTHY CUSTOMERS.

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